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4	PUBLIC MEETING
5	FOR
6	DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S
7	STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE
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11	JUNE 27, 2006
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14	PRESENTED BY MR. DAVID JOHNSON
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23	LAKE JACKSON CIVIC CENTER
24	333 HIGHWAY 332 EAST
25	LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS

GRACIE O'ROURKE & ASSOCIATES - 210.479.6161

- 6:54P 1 (Presentation by Mr. David Johnson is
 - 2 presented and completed.)
 - 3 MR. DAVID JOHNSON: Karen will introduce the
 - 4 speakers; and if you would, go ahead.
 - 5 MS. KAREN FADELY: Okay. So, at this point
 - 6 we're going to have our court reporter ready to record
 - 7 your comments on the draft EIS. I want to remind you that
 - 8 all of the different methodologies of how you can submit
 - 9 comments before that July 10th deadline is on the green
 - 10 sheet of paper. You can mail it in. You can E-mail us.
 - 11 You can fax us, or you can come up tonight.
 - 12 I do have a number of speakers that have
 - 13 already registered. So, I'm just going to go through the
 - 14 list. Everybody has about five minutes, more or less. I
 - 15 have these little cards. So, if you get a little
 - 16 long-winded, I might wave you down. That's just so that
 - 17 everybody has an equal opportunity to get up and speak.
 - So, first -- also, when you get up here,
 - 19 please state your name clearly and spell your last name
 - 20 for the record.
 - 21 And I'd like to start off with Bob Walker.
- 7:22P 22 MR. BOB WALKER: Good evening. My name is
 - 23 Bob Walker. I am vice president and site director of The
 - 24 Dow Chemical Company based here in Freeport, Texas. I'd
 - 25 like to share with you a number of concerns that our

- 1 company has with the consideration of Stratton Ridge as a
- 2 potential location for the SPR expansion site. These are
- 3 primarily concerns of economic impact to Dow and to the
- 4 region that flow from this environmental impact study.
- 5 Let me start by stating that we are
- 6 certainly not opposed to expanding the Strategic Petroleum
- 7 Reserves, but Dow does not support the use of Stratton
- 8 Ridge for this expansion. The reasons for this are fairly
- 9 straightforward.
- 10 Over 50 percent of the more than 6,000 Dow
- 11 employees and contractor jobs in our Freeport facilities
- 12 exist because of the salt that we mine at Stratton Ridge.
- 13 This salt is a critical raw material for our chlor-alkali
- 14 production, which is, in turn, critical for our downstream
- 15 user plants that are dependent upon chlorine and caustic,
- 16 as well as several fence line customer plants.
- 17 From this Stratton Ridge salt, we make
- 18 thousands of different products worth over \$5 billion
- 19 annually. We also use the Stratton Ridge area to store
- 20 raw materials and products. Approximately half of the
- 21 \$125 million a year that we pay in taxes for state and
- 22 local purposes for Dow's Texas Operations are dependent
- 23 upon these assets.
- On the other hand, the SPR uses underground
- 25 salt formations -- as was just covered -- as the basis for

- 1 their oil storage operations. For their purposes, they
- 2 remove the salt and discharge it into the ocean. Placing
- 3 the SPR at Stratton Ridge would waste salt that Dow could
- 4 otherwise mine and convert into useful, value added
- 5 products that support the economy of this area.
- The use of seawater for mining, the speed of
- 7 mining the caverns in the salt dome, and the lack of a
- 8 fully saturated brine solution as a discharge precludes
- 9 this salt from being consumed by Dow to make useful
- 10 products. This salt would simply be wasted into the
- 11 ocean.
- 12 Now, we understand that other sites are also
- 13 in consideration to locate the SPR facility but they do
- 14 not have any co-located and salt-base production
- 15 facilities. So that that salt wasted into the ocean is
- 16 not salt that could be used otherwise as a feedstock for
- 17 manufacturing purposes.
- In addition, we have concerns about our
- 19 current Stratton Ridge operations, as these assets are
- 20 critical to the economic operation of our Freeport site,
- 21 which happens to be Dow's largest manufacturing facility
- 22 globally. We experienced the concept of eminent domain
- 23 firsthand when the U.S. Government first used its power to
- 24 take Bryan Mound -- now the local SPR site -- from us when
- 25 we were an unwilling seller.

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1 Allow me to demonstrate this impact with
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- 2 some numbers. At the moment -- without the SPR at
- 3 Stratton Ridge -- we estimate that Dow has access to salt
- 4 reserves that should last us for more than 30 years. But
- 5 the 16 proposed SPR caverns would waste about 130 billion
- 6 pounds of salt, or the equivalent of seven years of Dow
- 7 salt consumption. But it really doesn't stop there.
- 8 When the Department of Energy presented its
- 9 initial plan in the fall of 2005, two of Dow's planned
- 10 wells on Dow land would have been directly impacted,
- 11 wasting another four years of salt that Dow could have
- 12 converted into raw material. Since that initial plan, the
- 13 DOE has expanded the area that it needs for the SPR. This
- 14 impacts another three planned Dow wells, thus reducing
- 15 Dow's potential salt consumption up to 11 years.
- 16 So, bottom line, under the DOE's current
- 17 proposal, up to 18 years of equivalent Dow salt
- 18 production -- or consumption is wasted.
- 19 The waste of Stratton Ridge salt and the
- 20 possibility that the government may take some business
- 21 critical property from Dow is a grave concern to our
- 22 internal business analysts who make investment
- 23 recommendations to Dow's senior management.
- 24 Simply put, Texas operations competes with
- 25 chemical and plastic producers around the world. We

- 1 already have a competitive disadvantage due to high energy
- 2 and feedstock prices here on the Gulf Coast. The Dow
- 3 Texas Operations site could lose its global
- 4 competitiveness completely if the SPR expansion is located
- 5 at Stratton Ridge. But not only potential new investment
- 6 would be in jeopardy, these same factors would also be --
- 7 negatively affect business decisions for investments to
- 8 support current operations.
- 9 So, the future of Dow Texas Operations is
- 10 dependent on the willingness of Dow, first, to continue to
- 11 make investments in new products; second, to continue to
- 12 make these products that are made today; and third, to
- 13 improve the site's energy efficiency and sustainability.
- 14 Without such investments, manufacturing facilities like
- ours may cease to be viable and ultimately shut down.
- 16 Now, we understand that a hundred or so jobs
- 17 might be created for managing the SPR site. However,
- 18 placing our Freeport Dow site in further economic jeopardy
- 19 would literally put thousands of high-wage manufacturing
- 20 jobs, as well as thousands of additional jobs in our
- 21 community, at risk.
- In short, the long-term viability of our
- 23 Texas Operations site depends upon having low cost salt
- 24 feedstock and hydrocarbon storage facilities located at
- 25 the Stratton Ridge site. The loss of these capabilities

- 1 could ultimately cause Dow in Freeport to lose its global
- 2 competitiveness and, again, with the potential result in
- 3 the inevitable and painful shutdown.
- 4 Thank you for allowing me to express our
- 5 concerns and state the reasons why Dow opposes the use of
- 6 the Stratton Ridge location for the new Strategic
- 7 Petroleum Reserve site.
- 8 Thank you very much.
- 7:29P 9 MR. DAVID JOHNSON: Thank you.
 - 10 MS. KAREN FADELY: I'd like to call David
 - 11 Stedman of the Economic Development Alliance for Brazoria
 - 12 County.
 - 13 MR. DAVID STEDMAN: Thank you.
 - 14 I'm David Stedman, S-t-e-d-m-a-n. I'm the
 - 15 president and CEO of The Economic Development Alliance for
 - 16 Brazoria County.
 - 17 The Economic Development Alliance is an
 - 18 organization composed of businesses large and small. We
 - 19 have members that include chemical manufacturers, people
 - 20 in the petroleum industry, contractors, engineers,
 - 21 retailers, businesses of all types. Some of our members
 - 22 are small businesses that depend on the local economy and
 - 23 the spending dollars that are created by some of the large
 - 24 industries. Our economy is interrelated.
 - 25 And so, on the 12th of June, our board met

- 1 to represent the entire business community of Brazoria
- 2 County and unanimously adopted this resolution, the
- 3 Resolution, In Opposition to the Strategic Petroleum
- 4 Reserve At Stratton Ridge, Whereas, the Economic
- 5 Development Alliance for Brazoria County's mission is to
- 6 promote and to diversify the economic base, attract
- 7 high-wage jobs and target industries to Brazoria County,
- 8 and support and champion the interests of existing
- 9 business; and Whereas, it is understood that the Energy
- 10 Policy Act of 2005 directs the Secretary of Energy to fill
- 11 the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to its one billion barrel
- 12 capacity, and this will require the Department of Energy
- 13 to expand the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, such plans to
- 14 including -- to include adding one new storage site; and
- 15 Whereas, Stratton Ridge, Texas, is one of the new sites
- 16 being considered from the group of sites previously
- 17 assessed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and
- 18 Stratton Ridge is located within Brazoria County, Texas;
- 19 Whereas, the proposal to locate a Strategic Petroleum
- 20 Reserve storage operation at Stratton Ridge, Texas, would
- 21 have an adverse effect on the area's chemical
- 22 manufacturing industry which constitutes the very
- 23 foundation of the economy of South Brazoria County with
- over 5,000 direct jobs and as many as four to eight times
- 25 that number of indirect jobs among contractors and

- 1 suppliers; Whereas the expansion of the Strategic
- 2 Petroleum Reserve at Stratton Ridge would create virtually
- 3 no significant economic benefit that could conceivably
- 4 compensate for the potential harm it would do to the local
- 5 economy; and Whereas, the Department of Energy has other
- 6 options to meet its mandated expansion of the Strategic
- 7 Petroleum Reserve capacity. Now, Therefore, Be It
- 8 Resolved, that the Economic Development Alliance for
- 9 Brazoria County hereby opposes said location of a
- 10 Strategic Petroleum Reserve at Stratton Ridge, Texas.
- 11 And hereby -- in witness hereby, we set our
- 12 hands.
- So, I appreciate the opportunity to read
- 14 this Resolution into the record. And I would just like to
- 15 add my personal comments to this.
- 16 One of the potential -- or one of the great
- 17 benefits of heading an organization like the Economic
- 18 Development Alliance is to look at Brazoria County and
- 19 look at it as it can be as well as as it is. We want to
- 20 diversify our economy, and we're working to do that with
- 21 the support of the chemical manufacturing industry and
- 22 with the support of our court and all the various elements
- 23 that make up our existing economy. And we're doing that
- 24 with things like nanotechnology and biotechnology in terms
- 25 of trying to attract those to Brazoria County. But how

- 1 many nanotechnology companies or how many biotechnology
- 2 companies would it take to compensate for the loss of one
- 3 single plant that operate within Brazoria County? We just
- 4 couldn't do it.
- 5 Like it or not, the chemical manufacturing
- 6 industry has been, is now, and will be for the foreseeable
- 7 future the absolute bedrock of the economy of Brazoria
- 8 County. And we realize that the existence of that
- 9 industry here -- just as Bob just got through saying -- it
- 10 is based on the global competitiveness of our site and --
- 11 as a means or a base of operation versus sites that exist
- 12 all over the globe and all over the world.
- 13 One of the great strategic advantages that
- 14 we have here is the salt that exists within Stratton
- 15 Ridge, within those caverns, to take that salt and pump it
- 16 out as brine and dump it out into the ocean when it could
- 17 be used to support the people of Brazoria County which
- 18 ultimately is what Dow exists for, is what BASF exists
- 19 for, what Schenectady and what Shintech and what
- 20 ConocoPhillips and all of the big chemical and
- 21 manufacturing complexes around here, they exist to make a
- 22 profit but they also exist to provide welfare for our
- 23 people. That's what puts roofs over families' heads.
- 24 That's what sends kids to college, and it's what puts
- 25 bread on the table.

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1 So, therefore, I think that we need to
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- 2 really evaluate this in terms of risks. The risks that
- 3 you talk about on your slide are risks of disaster or
- 4 environmental impact; but there's also a risk when people
- 5 can't work, when people can't feed their families.
- When I first came here to the Economic
- 7 Development Alliance, in some of our cities, we had
- 8 employment (sic) as high as 17 percent. 17 percent.
- 9 Think about that. That means almost one in five people
- 10 are out of a job. Now, because of some things that we
- 11 have done in the expansion and activity that we have here,
- 12 we now have a good unemployment rate and it's dropping.
- 13 We happen to be fortunate right now that it's a little bit
- 14 lower than the state level. And we're real proud of that.
- 15 But that could be reversed instantly with the decision not
- 16 to keep a plant open or put it somewhere else because
- 17 there's a better strategic environment there. And so, I
- 18 urge you to look at all your alternatives and pick some
- 19 place other than Stratton Ridge for the Strategic
- 20 Petroleum Reserve expansion.
- 21 Thank you very much.
- MS. KAREN FADELY: I'd like to call Bill
- 23 Henry of Freeport LNG.
- 7:36P 24 MR. BILL HENRY: My name is Bill Henry,
 - 25 H-e-n-r-y. I'm vice president of Freeport LNG. I just

- 1 want to make a few comments here. While our business is
- 2 not directly dependent upon salt, I should mention to you
- 3 that Dow Chemical is the 15 percent owner of Freeport LNG;
- 4 and we're very concerned about their welfare. They're
- 5 also one of the biggest customers of our terminal. We
- 6 want to see their economic viability continue for a long
- 7 period of time so that they can utilize our facilities.
- 8 One of the comments I wanted to make is that
- 9 in your environmental impact statement study it was
- 10 unclear to me, as I went through it, that you were really
- 11 considering the fact that there was an LNG plant being
- 12 built here. Let me assure you that it is. We were -- we
- 13 had filed for and received our federal regulatory permits
- 14 back in June of 2004. In August of 2005 we started
- 15 construction. In January, 2005, we are 18 months into
- 16 construction. First deliveries through the first phase of
- 17 our plant will begin at the end of '07 and continue from
- 18 thereon.
- 19 We have also filed for an expansion of this
- 20 facility. It's specified in those dockets there. That
- 21 expansion is to go from 1.5 Bcf of daily capacity to 4 Bcf
- 22 of daily capacity at the terminal. That was filed in May
- 23 of 2005. The environmental assessment on that has just
- 24 been published, and it is on the FERC agenda for July.
- 25 So, we anticipate getting all the permits for that by the

- 1 end of this year and -- and then possibly starting
- 2 construction at the first part of 2007.
- We also have as part of this project a
- 4 send-out pipeline -- a 42-inch send-out pipeline which
- 5 goes from Quintana Island to Stratton Ridge. It actually
- 6 crosses the 40-inch DOE line going to Texas City. That's
- 7 a high-pressure pipeline. 1250 pounds, MAOP of 1440. So,
- 8 I want to make sure that if you're going to build another
- 9 pipeline you be real careful where you put it.
- 10 The second thing that's in our expansion is
- 11 salt cavern storage wells. We have in our plans to build
- 12 up to two natural gas salt cavern storage wells as part of
- 13 our Freeport LNG facility. We have permitted those with
- 14 the Texas Railroad Commission. They're considered
- 15 non-jurisdictional by FERC. So, they were permitted by the
- 16 Texas Railroad Commission. That docket is shown in the --
- 17 the material I have given you. So, that -- that's going
- 18 to happen. It is on the other side about approximately
- 19 where you pointed. I will send you by E-mail the X and Y
- 20 coordinates of those particular -- those wells so that
- 21 you'll be able to consider those in your consideration.
- Our position is that -- is that we want to
- 23 make sure that you've considered our operations in any
- 24 development just like we would be concerned about Dow or
- 25 anybody else's development therein concerning our

- 1 operations.
- One other thing, which I don't know if it
- 3 was recognized in your environmental impact statement, but
- 4 because of our first phase and second phase, we would have
- 5 up to 400 LNG ships a year coming into this port. So,
- 6 we're going to add fairly considerably to the marine
- 7 traffic coming in here. We have worked with the Coast
- 8 Guard. We have received our waterway suitability studies
- 9 for that number of ships. So, I suggest those are things
- 10 that you may want to consider as you consider your project
- 11 with additional ships and crude carriers that would come
- 12 into the Freeport port.
- I think that's it. I appreciate your time.
- MR. DAVID JOHNSON: Thank you.
- MS. KAREN FADELY: At this point that's all
- 16 the speakers that I had pre-registered. So, I'd like to
- 17 open it up, if you want to raise your hand.
- 7:42P 18 MR. VICK WADE: My name is Vick Wade. I'm
 - 19 coming to you as a local, long-time Brazoria County
 - 20 resident. And I -- I mean, I'm just here to express --
 - 21 I'm not going to give you a long speech or anything but
 - 22 I'm just putting my vote in and my vote would be that we
 - 23 don't -- do not have you-all come in. I just -- I see it
 - 24 as an eminent domain thing that -- and I do have a small
 - 25 business here, and I have long-term interests in our area.

- 1 And I don't see it as a -- this as a long-term positive
- 2 for our area.
- 3 Thanks.
- 4 MR. DAVID JOHNSON: Thank you.
- 7:43P 5 MR. DONALD PAYNE: Donald Payne, P-a-y-n-e.
 - 6 I'm County Commissioner, Precinct 1, Brazoria County. And
 - 7 I'd like to read a Resolution that was passed in
 - 8 Commissioner's Court today.
 - 9 To all to whom these present shall come,
 - 10 Greetings: Whereas, it is understood that the Energy
 - 11 Policy Act of 2005 directs the Secretary of Energy to fill
 - 12 the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to a capacity of 1 billion
 - 13 barrels of oil; and Whereas, it will require the
 - 14 Department of Energy to expand the Strategic Petroleum
 - 15 Reserve, such plans to include adding one new site; and
 - 16 Whereas, the new site must be selected from a group of
 - 17 sites previously assessed in the Draft Environmental
 - 18 Impact Statement; and Whereas, Stratton Ridge, Texas, is
 - one of the new sites being considered; and Whereas,
 - 20 Stratton Ridge, Texas, is in Brazoria County, Texas; and
 - 21 Whereas, the proposed location of a Strategic Petroleum
 - 22 Reserve storage operation is Stratton Ridge, Texas --
 - 23 would have an adverse effect on the area's chemical
 - 24 manufacturing industry and related jobs and thus the
 - 25 area's new economic base would be adversely affected; and

- 1 Whereas, the Department of Energy has other options to
- 2 meet its mandated expansion of the Strategic Petroleum
- 3 Reserve capacity.
- 4 Now, therefore be it resolved, that Brazoria
- 5 County hereby opposes any location of a Strategic
- 6 Petroleum Reserve at Stratton Ridge, Texas.
- 7 In witness thereof, we have hereunto set our
- 8 hands and cause the Great Seal of Brazoria County to be
- 9 affixed on the 27th day of June, 2006. It's signed by all
- 10 the members of the Commissioner's Court: County Judge,
- 11 John Willy; myself, Commissioner of Precinct 1; Jim
- 12 Clawson, Commissioner of Precinct 2; Jack Harris,
- 13 Commissioner of Precinct 3; and L.L. Stanley, Commissioner
- of Precinct 4.
- 15 And on a personal note, before I was elected
- 16 in 2001, I worked for Dow for 22 years, and ten of those
- 17 years were in a chlorine plant. And I know the need of
- 18 the brine for the -- for the chlorine operations. And I'm
- 19 actually surprised when Bob stood up here and said it
- 20 would only affect 50 percent of the people out there. I
- 21 figured it would be more than that because at all of the
- 22 other plants -- or a lot of the other plants tie in to
- 23 chlorine.
- So, this is something that would -- with
- 25 you-all having another site, I sure would hope you-all

- 1 would be willing to look at going somewhere else other
- 2 than in Brazoria County. Commissioner's Court does not
- 3 oppose having an increase in the barrels of oil. We just
- 4 oppose it coming to Brazoria County.
- 5 Thank you-all.
- 6 MS. KAREN FADELY: Anybody else like to say
- 7 something?
- 7:45P 8 MS. TERI MASTERON: My name is Teri
 - 9 Masterson, M-a-s-t-e-r-s-o-n. And my background is in
 - 10 trade and commodity markets. And I was just -- I really
 - 11 have a question more than a comment.
 - 12 Do you-all consider, when you're doing your
 - 13 economic and risk analysis, not only the economic risks to
 - 14 the local economy but also to the natural gas supplies of
 - 15 the United States? Because as we look at more LNG coming
 - 16 in and we look at storage capability, the strategic oil
 - 17 reserve is obviously for disruptions in oil production.
 - 18 But natural gas production is also key to electric power
 - 19 generation as well as the gas that we use in -- for power
 - 20 and feedstocks in the -- in industries all around the
 - 21 state and, in fact, all around the United States.
 - 22 So, when you look at the impact of affecting
 - 23 LNG and the volatility that that can have on natural gas
 - 24 markets -- because that will help depress volatility of
 - 25 natural gas markets. I know you-all are focused on oil;

- 1 but you do need to consider the impact on natural gas, its
- 2 volatility and that impact on the domestic economy when
- 3 you do your economic analysis.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 MS. DIANE KILE: Good evening. My name is
- 6 Diana Kile. And I am the deputy director for U.S.
- 7 Congressman Ron Paul. And I would -- and Kile is K-i-l-e.
- 8 And I would like to read a statement written by
- 9 Congressman Paul today.
- 10 I want to join with others tonight in
- 11 expressing my concerns regarding the Stratton Ridge
- 12 expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. In the
- 13 recent past, President Bush has stated the need to
- 14 judiciously diminish the reserve in order to reduce
- 15 non-market demand, thus helping to reduce energy costs.
- 16 In light of that, we should seriously consider not only
- 17 where but also whether or not to increase the reserve.
- 18 Certainly if high energy prices are a legitimate
- 19 concern -- and they clearly are at this time -- we should
- 20 not undertake such an expansion in a way that could
- 21 negatively impact any component of the petrochemical
- 22 industry. Any federal action that would threaten to raise
- 23 costs to business, which would be passed along to
- 24 consumers, is a bad policy at any time. However, this is
- 25 a particularly bad time for any such policy to be enacted.

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1 In addition, it is always a concern of local
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- 2 property owners that federal activity will result in a
- 3 taking of private property. Such takings have a direct
- 4 negative impact not merely on the property owner who has
- 5 every right to expect that government will protect its
- 6 property interest but also upon economic activity. When
- 7 property rights are in jeopardy, property owners do not
- 8 take the kinds of economic actions that benefit themselves
- 9 as well as other economic actors.
- 10 As a leading advocate of property rights, I
- 11 share the strong concern of others in the area that
- 12 locating this reserve expansion in Stratton Ridge will
- 13 negatively impact property owners. Moreover, I join with
- 14 the local government authorities and taxpayers who are
- 15 always concerned about taking property off of the local
- 16 tax rolls. With many suffering from property valuation
- 17 inflation, further erosion of the tax base will only serve
- 18 to further increase property taxes upon already strapped
- 19 homeowners and businesses.
- 20 Again, I wish to join with The Economic
- 21 Development Alliance for Brazoria County, the Dow Chemical
- 22 Company, and other concerned members of the community in
- 23 expressing my concern regarding the siting of an SPR
- 24 expansion at Stratton Ridge.
- I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

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1 MR. DAVID JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
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- 2 MS. KAREN FADELY: Would anybody else like
- 3 to come up?
- 7:50P 4 MR. TOMMY SORIERO: I don't have a prepared
 - 5 statement. My name is Tommy Soriero. I represent the
 - 6 owner of Pinto Energy Partners. We are the owner of the
 - 7 majority of the land where the -- the site has -- has been
 - 8 platted, and I want to make a statement. I'm not going to
 - 9 reiterate the words of Mr. Walker and Mr. Henry, but we
 - 10 have owned the property since the Thirties with the view
 - 11 towards the mineral value of both the salt and the storage
 - 12 capabilities from the property itself.
 - 13 We have in the last year worked a deal with
 - 14 Freeport LNG. They are building their cavern -- both
 - 15 their caverns, and they are permitted on our property. We
 - 16 also have additional development underway on the property
 - 17 for additional caverns both for gas storage to support the
 - 18 LNG and the local consumption of the chemical facilities
 - 19 in the area. We also have, obviously, a very large
 - 20 interest in the mineral value of the salt that Mr. Walker
 - 21 alluded to in his speech that we hate to see that -- that
 - 22 mineral wasted and it seems like it'd certainly be a way
 - 23 to accomplish both goals both realizing the mineral value
 - 24 of the salt as it is mined and not being wasted since
 - 25 there is a consumer in the area that could take the salt

- 1 and it's also something, I said, the company has owned
- 2 for -- in the range of 70 years -- maintain the ownership
- 3 of this land for this specific reason. And we anticipate
- 4 that there's probably going to be a difference in the
- 5 economic value as being proposed by -- by the DOE versus
- 6 our company and how long we've held the property with the
- 7 development plans that we have and this would certainly
- 8 interfere with all of those plans.
- 9 What we would like to see is -- is some way
- 10 to work out a -- an arrangement whereby both the mineral
- 11 can be extracted and the value derived from those minerals
- 12 which -- like I said, I'm not going to reiterate all the
- 13 words -- chemical producers in that area would like to see
- 14 that mineral exploited and -- and the operations as well
- 15 as potentially provide the storage for the -- for the SPR
- 16 utilizing those same caverns in that same production
- 17 process.
- Now, I know that it's difficult to
- 19 accomplish all those goals at the same time but it's
- 20 certainly something that would be done with minimum waste
- 21 and -- and most value to us, the mineral owner, and to the
- 22 chemical consumption industries -- or the chemical
- 23 production industries that use the salt as feedstock and
- 24 as well as to develop a potential of the property for gas
- 25 storage which was just alluded to that we see in the

- 1 infrastructure and the storage that is capable of being
- 2 developed on the property for the natural gas, we see it
- 3 as being as, you know, every bit as important as the
- 4 security and the need for the oil storage.
- 5 Thank you.
- 7:53P 6 MR. SHANE PIRTLE: Shane Pirtle,
 - 7 P-i-r-t-l-e, immediate and former mayor of Lake Jackson.
 - 8 And I won't presume to speak for other elected officials.
 - 9 I say that -- as you've already heard, Dow Chemical is a
 - 10 major -- the primary employer in this community, largest
 - 11 employer in this community; and obviously it's a
 - 12 substantial contributor to this community.
 - 13 So, with that being said, we wouldn't want
 - 14 to see anything that jeopardizes what we've seen as a
 - 15 great partner in this community both as an employer and
 - 16 contributing in a number of other activities. So, I think
 - 17 that would -- and as well as the cities -- all those --
 - 18 most of the large cities are members of The Economic
 - 19 Development Alliance and we're a part of this resolution.
 - Thank you.
 - MS. KAREN FADELY: Would anybody else like
 - 22 to come up and make a comment?
 - Go ahead, ma'am.
- 7:54P 24 MS. JANICE EDWARDS: My name is Janice
 - 25 Edwards. And my background -- and I'm retired from Getty,

- 1 Texaco, and Shell and so, I know a lot about the oil
- 2 industry.
- 3 And my question to you-all is -- I
- 4 understand we need strategic oil reserves. But looking at
- 5 the map where they all are, they all reside in the Gulf
- 6 Coast. I realize most of our refineries are here; but the
- 7 problem I see is if we have a major disaster like a
- 8 Katrina and a Rita again and you cannot get to the
- 9 strategic oil reserves, it'd do you no good. I suggest
- 10 that you consider some place a little bit further inland
- 11 that would not be impacted by the hurricanes that we are
- 12 going to continue to receive down in the Gulf Coast.
- Thank you.

(Mr. David Johnson concludes with closing remarks and meeting is concluded at 7:55 p.m.)

1	STATE OF TEXAS					
2	COUNTY OF BRAZORIA					
3	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE					
4	TO THE PUBLIC MEETING					
5	HELD ON JUNE 27, 2006					
6						
7	I, the undersigned Certified Shorthand Reporter in					
8	and for the State of Texas, certify that the comments					
9	stated in the foregoing pages are true and correct.					
10	I further certify that I am neither attorney or					
11	counsel for, related to, nor employed by any parties in					
12	which these comments were taken and, further, that I am					
13	not a relative or employee of anyone employed by the					
14	parties hereto or financially interested in the outcome of					
15	the meeting.					
16	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO under my hand and seal of					
17	office on this the 6th day of July,_2006.					
18						
19						
20	IDA H. SALINAS, TEXAS CSR 4469					
21	Expiration Date: 12/31/2006					
22						
23	Gracie O'Rourke & Associates 19015 La Verita					
24	San Antonio, Texas 78258					
25	(210) 479-6161 (210) 479-6162					